

# 1. The Caliphates (different Khilaafats in Islamic era).

## Meaning of Caliphate (Khilaafat) in Islam:

The word Caliphate (al-Khilāfah) (خِلَافَةُ) comes from the Arabic word Khalīfah (خَلِيفَة) which means successor, deputy, or representative. In Islam, the Caliph (Khalīfah) is considered the leader of the Muslim Ummah (community) after the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. He should not bring new religion (because Prophet-hood ended with Muhammad ﷺ), but he should protect Islam, rules with justice, and applies the Sharīah (Islamic law).

## Summary of caliphate:

|   | Caliphate (English)                                                                                                        | Arabic (Indo-Pak style)                   | Period (CE)  | Notes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|---|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Rashidun Caliphate (Rightly Guided)                                                                                        | الرَّاشِدَةُ الْخِلَافَةُ                 | 632–661 AD   | Four rightly guided caliphs (Abu Bakr, Umar, Uthman, Ali). Golden age of Islam.                                                                                                                                                         |
|   | Hasan Ibn Ali ruled for about 6 months only.                                                                               | الحَسَنُ بْنُ عَلِيٍّ                     | 661 AD       | Gave-up the caliphate for peace treaty with Mu'āwiyah.                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 2 | Umayyad Caliphate (Damascus).                                                                                              | الْأُمَوِيَّةُ الْخِلَافَةُ               | 661–750 AD   | First dynastic caliphate, capital in Damascus; expanded empire from Spain to Sindh.                                                                                                                                                     |
|   | <b>Further formed Córdoba Caliphate</b> (Qurtubah قرطبة khilaafat) by descendants of Umayyad Caliphate of Córdoba (Spain). | فُرْطُبَة فِي الْأُمَوِيَّةُ الْخِلَافَةُ | 929–1031 AD  | Abdul Rehan-III in Spain declared Córdoba caliphate thus Cordoba became cultural capital.                                                                                                                                               |
| 3 | Abbasid Caliphate (Baghdad)                                                                                                | الْعَبَّاسِيَّةُ الْخِلَافَةُ             | 750–1258 AD  | Golden Age of Islam, Baghdad as center of science & culture; ended by Mongols.                                                                                                                                                          |
|   | Further formed by Abbasid Caliphate (Cairo, under Mamluks) (in Egypt)                                                      | الْعَبَّاسِيَّةُ الْخِلَافَةُ             | 1261–1517 AD | Abbasid family continued symbolically under Mamluk protection in Cairo.                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 4 | Fatimid Caliphate (Ismaili Shi'a) (in Egypt)                                                                               | الْفَاتِمِيَّةُ الْخِلَافَةُ              | 909–1171 AD  | Rival Ismaili caliphate, based in Cairo after 969 AD; ended by Salahuddin in 1171 AD.                                                                                                                                                   |
| 5 | Ayyubi caliphate Kurdish Sunni Muslims.                                                                                    | الدَّوْلَةُ الْأَيُّوبِيَّةُ              | 1177-1250 AD | Founded by Salahuddin Ayyubi in 1171 AD & same year abolished Fatimid caliphate in Egypt; ruled Egypt, Syria, Palestine. North Iraq; Salahuddin captures Jerusalem On 2 <sup>nd</sup> October 1187 AD, by winning the battle of Hattin. |
| 6 | Ottoman Caliphate                                                                                                          | الْعُثْمَانِيَّةُ الْخِلَافَةُ            | 1517–1924 AD | After defeating Mamluks, Ottomans assumed caliphate; lasted until modern times.                                                                                                                                                         |
| 9 | Modern Period (No universal caliphate)                                                                                     | _____                                     | 1924–present | No widely recognized caliphate after Ottoman abolition.                                                                                                                                                                                 |

## Sultanates (632–1924 AD):

|    | English Name               | Arabic Name               | Years (CE) | Type      | Capital(s)        | Notes                                                                             |
|----|----------------------------|---------------------------|------------|-----------|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1  | Umayyad Emirate of Córdoba | قَرْطَبَة إِمَارَة        | 756–929    | Emirate   | Córdoba           | Became Caliphate in 929 again, before this they were emirates from 756 to 929 AD. |
| 2  | Seljuk Sultanate           | سَلْجُوقِيَّة             | 1037–1194  | Sultanate | Nishapur, Isfahan | Powerful Sunni Turkish dynasty                                                    |
| 3  | Ayyubid Sultanate          | سَلْطَنَة الْأَيُّوبِيَّة | 1171–1250  | Sultanate | Cairo, Damascus   | Founded by Salahuddin                                                             |
| 4  | Mamluk Sultanate           | سَلْطَنَة الْمَمْلُوك     | 1250–1517  | Sultanate | Cairo             | Defeated Mongols, ruled Egypt & Syria                                             |
| 5  | Delhi Sultanate            | دِلِّي سَلْطَنَة          | 1206–1526  | Sultanate | Delhi             | Five dynasties in India                                                           |
| 6  | Almoravid Dynasty          | الْمُرَاطُون              | 1040–1147  | Sultanate | Marrakesh         | Berber dynasty                                                                    |
| 7  | Almohad Dynasty            | الْمُوَحِّدُونَ           | 1121–1269  | Sultanate | Marrakesh         | Succeeded Almoravids                                                              |
| 8  | Granada Emirate            | غَرْنَاطَة إِمَارَة       | 1238–1492  | Emirate   | Granada           | Last Muslim state in Spain                                                        |
| 9  | Safavid Empire             | الْصَفَوِيَّوْنَ          | 1501–1736  | Empire    | Tabriz, Isfahan   | Shi'a dynasty, rival of Ottomans                                                  |
| 10 | Mughal Empire              | الْمَغُول سَلْطَنَة       | 1526–1857  | Empire    | Delhi, Agra       | Successor to Delhi Sultanate                                                      |

## Difference between Caliphate, Sultanate, Emirate, Dynasty, empire:

| Term            | Meaning                                                                                                              | Ruler's Title                        | Main Idea / Example                                            |
|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Caliphate       | A large Islamic state ruled by a Caliph, who is considered the political and religious leader of all Muslims.        | Caliph (Khalīfah)                    | Abbasid Caliphate, Umayyad Caliphate                           |
| Sultanate       | A Muslim kingdom or state ruled by a Sultan (king-like ruler, not necessarily religious head).                       | Sultan                               | Delhi Sultanate, Ottoman Sultanate (before claiming Caliphate) |
| Emirate         | A smaller state or province ruled by an Emir (prince, commander, or governor). Sometimes part of a larger Caliphate. | Emir                                 | Emirate of Granada, modern UAE (United Arab Emirates)          |
| Dynasty         | A family line of rulers who keep ruling for generations. Can rule a Caliphate, Sultanate, or Kingdom.                | Depends (Caliph, Sultan, King, etc.) | Mughal Dynasty, Safavid Dynasty                                |
| Kingdom/ Empire | A very large state controlling many regions and peoples, often ruled by an Emperor or King.                          | Emperor / King                       | Roman Empire, Mughal Empire, Ottoman Empire                    |

## The Quran says: Surah al-Baqarah (2:30):

وَإِذْ قَالَ رَبُّكَ لِلْمَلٰٓئِكَةِ إِنِّي جَاعِلٌ فِي الْأَرْضِ خَلِيفَةً ۖ قَالُوا أَتَجْعَلُ فِيهَا مَن يُفْسِدُ فِيهَا وَيَسْفِكُ الدِّمَآءَ ۚ وَنَحْنُ نُسَبِّحُ بِحَمْدِكَ وَنُقَدِّسُ لَكَ ۗ قَالَ إِنِّي أَعْلَمُ مَا لَا تَعْلَمُونَ ﴿٣٠﴾

And when your Lord said to the angels: “Indeed, I will place a successor (Khalīfah) upon the earth.”

They said: “Will You place upon it one who will cause corruption and shed blood, while we glorify You with praise and sanctify You?”

Allah said: “Indeed, I know that which you do not know.”

**Hadith:** The Prophet ﷺ said: The Children of Israel were ruled by Prophets. Whenever one Prophet passed away, another Prophet would take his place. After me, there will be no Prophet, but there will be many Caliphs (Khulafā).

The people asked, “O Messenger of Allah, what should we do?”

He ﷺ replied: Follow the one who is given allegiance first, and give them their rights. Allah will question them about how they ruled those placed under their care. Bukhari: 3455 book no. 60.

### **The Rashidun (Raashida) caliphate (al-Khilāfah ar-Rāšidah) (الْخِلَافَةُ الرَّاشِدَةُ):**

The Rashidun caliphate (Raashida) (al-Khilāfah ar-Rāšidah) (الْخِلَافَةُ الرَّاشِدَةُ) is a title given for the reigns of the first caliphs Abu Bakr, Umar, Usman, and Ali (r.a). Its total period was from 632 – 661 AD (11 – 40 Hijri era). It was called as the Caliphate of the Rightly Guided Caliphs, because these rulers closely followed the teachings of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. Its first capital was Madinah later moved to Kufa (Iraq). This period was marked by rapid expansion of Islam, spread of justice, Shūrā (consultation) and compilation of the Qurān into a single book. It was the golden era of Islamic leadership, guided by faith, justice, and expansion of Islam. In these 30 years of caliphate, Islam spread beyond Arabia into Persia, Egypt, Syria, Palestine, Iraq, and North Africa.

### **Caliphate of Abu Bakr al-Siddiq (632–634 AD).**

Full Name: Abdullah ibn Abi Quhafah. He was born in 573 AD in Makkah, from the Quraysh tribe. His father’s name was Uthman Abu Quhafah and his mother was Umm al-Khair Salma bint Sakhr. He was among the earliest converts to Islam and the closest companion of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.

Abu Bakr was known for his honesty, humility, and strong faith. He was the Prophet’s companion during the migration (Hijrah) to Madinah and supported him throughout his mission.

He was the 1<sup>st</sup> Caliph from 632 to 634 AD only. During his caliphate, Abu Bakr faced rebellions from tribes that left Islam after the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, known as the Ridda Wars. He united Arabia again under Islam and began the collection of the Quran into one book to preserve it. He also sent armies to defend Islam beyond Arabia.

### **His caliphate (Khilaafat):**

He was the 1<sup>st</sup> Caliph of Islam. His Caliphate last around 2 years only & Umar (r.a) became the next Caliph.

After Prophet Muhammad ﷺ in 632 AD, the Muslims were deeply saddened and confused about who should lead them. Abu Bakr al-Siddiq (r.a), the closest companion of the Prophet ﷺ, was chosen as the first Caliph (Khalifah) of Islam. His leadership came at a very difficult time — some tribes refused to pay zakat, while others followed false prophets and turned away from Islam. Abu Bakr (r.a) stood firm and led the Ridda Wars (Wars of Apostasy) to bring these tribes back to Islam, showing great courage and wisdom.

He worked hard to unite all Muslims under one faith and government. He also sent armies to defend and spread Islam in Iraq and Syria, laying the foundation for the great Islamic empire that grew under later caliphs. One of his most important achievements was ordering the compilation of the Qur'an into a single book after many memorizers of the Qur'an were martyred in battle. This preserved the Holy Quran for all generations.

Abu Bakr (r.a) ruled for only about two years, but his short caliphate was full of strength, justice, and sincerity. He lived simply, avoided luxury, and used his position only to serve Allah and His people. His leadership ensured that Islam remained strong and united after the Prophet ﷺ, and his example set the standard for all future Muslim rulers.

### Death:

He ruled for two years and died peacefully in 634 AD at age 63 in Madinah. He was buried beside Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. His leadership saved Islam in a difficult time and established unity and stability.

### Quran and Hadith about Abu Bakr (r.a):

Quran chapter 9 (Tawbah) verse no. 40:

إِذْ يَقُولُ لِصَاحِبِهِ لَا تَحْزَنْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ مَعَنَا

English: When he said to his companion, do not grieve; indeed Allah is with us.

### Explanation and Background of Surah At-Tawbah, Verse 40:

This verse was revealed during the time when Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and his closest companion, Abu Bakr al-Siddiq (r.a), were migrating from Makkah to Madinah. The Quraysh leaders in Makkah had made a plan to kill the Prophet ﷺ, but Allah commanded him to leave Makkah secretly and travel to Madinah, where the Muslims were waiting for him. During this dangerous journey, the Prophet ﷺ was accompanied only by Abu Bakr (r.a). Both hid in a small mountain cave called Thawr (sawr) (غار ثور), located south of Makkah, for three days while the Quraysh searched everywhere for them.

When the enemies came very close to the cave, Abu Bakr (r.a) became worried — not for himself, but for the safety of the Prophet ﷺ. He whispered, “O Messenger of Allah, if one of them looks down, they will see us.” The Prophet ﷺ replied with full trust in Allah, saying: Do not grieve; indeed, Allah is with us. (لَا تَحْزَنْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ مَعَنَا)

This calm reassurance showed the Prophet's perfect faith and deep trust in Allah's protection. At that moment, Allah sent down His tranquillity (sakīnah) upon them and protected them from harm. According to many historical accounts, a spider built its web and a dove laid eggs at the cave's entrance, making the Quraysh think that no one had entered recently. Because of this divine protection, the Prophet ﷺ and Abu Bakr (r.a) were saved from danger.

After three days, they safely left the cave and continued their journey to Madinah, where the Prophet ﷺ would establish the first Islamic state. This verse reminds believers of the power of faith, patience, and trust in Allah, even in the darkest

moments. It also highlights the honor of Abu Bakr (r.a), who was the Prophet's companion in one of the most critical moments of Islamic history.

The message of this verse is timeless — it teaches Muslims that true peace and courage come from trusting Allah, that Allah's help is always near, and that those who stand firm with faith will always be protected by Him.

### Hadith:

The Prophet ﷺ said: 'If I were to take a close friend other than my Lord, I would have taken Abu Bakr as my friend.' (Bukhari, book 8, Hadith 466.)

### Legacy:

Abu Bakr al-Siddiq (r.a) left behind a legacy of faith, leadership, and sincerity. He united the Muslims (after Prophet ﷺ), fought false prophets (Musaylima Kazzab), and preserved the Quran by compiling it into one book. He ruled with justice, humility, and compassion, always serving Islam with honesty and devotion. His strong faith, truthfulness, and complete trust in Allah made him a model for all Muslim leaders. He died in 634 AD and was buried beside the Prophet ﷺ in Madinah.

### How Abu Bakr Got the Title of Siddiq:

The title **Siddiq** means **The Truthful One** or **The One Who Always Believes in the Truth**. He received this title after the famous event of **Isra and Mi'raj** — the miraculous night journey of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ from Makkah to Jerusalem and then to the heavens in one night. When the Prophet told the people of Makkah about this miracle, many of them laughed and refused to believe him. They thought it was impossible to travel such a great distance in one night.

When people went to Abu Bakr and told him what the Prophet ﷺ had claimed, they expected him to doubt or deny it. But Abu Bakr (r.a) said calmly, **"If Muhammad ﷺ said this, then I believe it. He never lies."** He believed in the Prophet's words without any hesitation, because he had full trust in his truthfulness and in Allah's power.

When the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ heard about Abu Bakr's immediate belief and strong faith, he gave him the title **Siddiq**. From that time onward, Abu Bakr became known as **Abu Bakr Siddiq**, meaning "Abu Bakr, the Truthful and the Believer in the Truth."

## Caliphate of Umar ibn al-Khattab (634–644 AD).

**Full Name:** Umar ibn al-Khattab. He was born in 584 AD in Makkah, from the Adi clan of Quraysh. His father was al-Khattab ibn Nufayl and his mother was Hantama bint Hisham. He accepted Islam at age of 27 and became one of its strongest supporters.

Umar was known for his justice, courage, and wisdom. During his caliphate, Islam spread rapidly to Persia, Syria, Egypt, and Iraq. He introduced many reforms, including the Islamic calendar, welfare system, public treasury (Bayt al-Mal), and courts of justice.

He lived a simple life, serving people directly and walking at night to ensure their well-being.

### His Caliphate (Khilaafat):

He was the 2<sup>nd</sup> Caliph of Islam after Abu Bakr (r.a), his caliphate (khilaafat) last for around 10 years during 634 to 644 AD. It was one of the most remarkable and successful period in Islamic history. Under his wise and strong leadership, the



Islamic empire expanded greatly — reaching Persia, Egypt, Syria, Palestine, and parts of the Byzantine (Roman) and Sasanian (Zoroastrian) empires. These victories spread Islam's message of justice and equality to new lands.

He established a well-organized system of government based on the Qur'an and Sunnah. He introduced the Islamic calendar (Hijri), set up courts of justice, appointed judges and governors, and made sure public funds were distributed fairly. He was the first to create a welfare system for the poor, widows, and orphans, showing deep care for all people, Muslim and non-Muslim alike.

He personally inspected markets, streets, and public places to ensure honesty and safety. Umar (r.a) was known for his strict sense of justice — even the most powerful people could not escape punishment if they did wrong, despite ruling a vast empire, he lived very simply, wore ordinary clothes, and often slept on the ground, reminding everyone that a true leader serves his people, not himself.

During his time, cities like Basra and Kufa were established, and the empire's administration became strong and organized. Umar (r.a) also made treaties with non-Muslim citizens, granting them protection and rights. His rule became a model of good governance in Islam.

### **Death:**

Umar ibn al-Khaṭṭāb (r.a) was attacked in the year 644 AD (23 hijri) while leading the Fajr (dawn) Salah in Masjid al-Nabawi, Madinah. He lived for three more days after the attack and passed away at the age of 63. He was stabbed multiple times by a Persian slave named Abu Lu'lu'ah al-Majusi (Firoz), who was living in Madinah. Abu Lu'lu'ah used a double-edged dagger during the Fajr (Salah) prayer, wounding Umar (r.a) and several others before killing himself.

The killer, Abu Lu'lu'ah, was a slave of al-Mughīrah ibn Shu'bah. He was upset about a dispute regarding a tax or work arrangement and held personal anger toward Umar (r.a). Some historians also mention that he had hatred for Islam and may have acted out of revenge for the Muslim conquest of Persia.

Umar (r.a) was carried home in great pain. Before passing away, he appointed a committee (Shūrā) of six companions to choose the next caliph — a sign of his fairness and concern for the Ummah's unity. He passed away three days later and was buried beside Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and Abu Bakr al-Siddiq (r.a) in the Prophet's Mosque in Madinah.

### **Hadith about Umar (r.a):**

Hadith: The Prophet ﷺ said: 'If there were to be a prophet after me, it would have been Umar ibn al-Khattab.' (Tirmidhi, book 49, Hadith 3686).

Hadith: 'Allah has placed truth on Umar's tongue and in his heart.' (Tirmidhi, book 49, Hadith 3682).

### **Legacy:**

He is Known as 'Al-Farooq' (The one who distinguishes truth from falsehood), Umar built a strong Islamic government and served with unmatched justice. His legacy is also justice, discipline, and equality among people. The Muslim community

mourned deeply, as Umar (r.a) had ruled with unmatched justice, discipline, and mercy. His death marked the end of one of the most powerful and righteous era in Islamic & whole world ruling history.

### **Caliphate of Uthman (Usman) ibn Affan (644–656 AD).**

**Full Name:** Uthman (Usman) ibn Affan ibn Abi al-As. He was born in 576 AD in Makkah from the wealthy Umayyad clan. His father was Affan ibn Abi al-As and his mother was Arwa bint Kurayz. Uthman was gentle, kind, and generous.

He accepted Islam through Abu Bakr's invitation and married two daughters of the Prophet ﷺ, earning the title 'Dhul-Nurayn' (The Possessor of Two Lights).

As caliph, he expanded the empire and prepared one official written copy of the Quran distributed across the Muslim world to ensure unity. He faced criticism and rebellion from some groups, but remained patient and refused to fight fellow Muslims.

#### **His Caliphate (Khilaafat):**

He was the 3<sup>rd</sup> Caliph of Islam during 644 to 656 AD, after Umar (r.a). His Caliphate last for around 12 years & Ali (r.a) became the next Caliph. This caliphate was the longest among the four rightly guided caliphs. The first six years of his rule were peaceful, prosperous, and full of growth for the Muslim world. Under his leadership, the Islamic empire expanded widely — reaching North Africa, Cyprus, Armenia, and parts of Persia. The wealth and resources of the empire increased greatly, and trade, agriculture, and education flourished.

Uthman (r.a) is most famous for his great service in preserving the Holy Qur'an. During his time, the Qur'an was written in different dialects by Muslims from various regions, which caused confusion. To protect the purity of Allah's Book, he ordered the compilation of the Qur'an into one standard version in the Qurayshi dialect — the dialect in which it was originally revealed to the Prophet ﷺ. He then sent copies of this standard Qur'an to all the major Islamic cities. Because of this, the Qur'an we read today is exactly the same as in his time — a remarkable contribution that preserved Islam forever.

He was also known for his generosity and kindness. He donated huge amounts of his wealth to help the poor and support the Muslim army. He had financed the army during the Battle of Tabuk even before becoming caliph. As a ruler, he worked to develop new cities, improve water systems, and expand the Masjid al-Haram in Makkah and Masjid al-Nabawi in Madinah, to accommodate the growing number of worshippers.

However, during the later years of his rule, some people became greedy and jealous. False accusations and political unrest spread across the empire. Enemies of Islam created divisions among Muslims. Uthman (r.a) was too gentle and patient, refused to fight against his fellow Muslims, even when rebels surrounded his house in Madinah. Finally, in 656 AD, he was martyred while reciting the Qur'an, his blood falling upon the verse: *"So Allah will suffice you against them, and He is the All-Hearing, All-Knowing."* (Surah Al-Baqarah 2:137)

His martyrdom deeply saddened the entire Muslim world. He is remembered as a righteous, humble, and generous leader whose efforts preserved the Qur'an and

strengthened the Islamic state. His caliphate was a time of expansion, prosperity, and spiritual strength, and his patience in the face of injustice remains a timeless lesson for all believers.

### **Death:**

In 656 AD, rebels surrounded his house in Madinah and killed him while he was reading the Quran. He died a martyr and was buried in Jannat al-Baqi.

### **Hadith about Uthman (r.a):**

Hadith: The Prophet ﷺ said: 'Shall I not feel shy before a man whom even the angels feel shy of?' (Muslim, book 44, Hadith 2401).

### **Legacy:**

Uthman ibn Affan (r.a) is remembered for his generosity, modesty, and great service to Islam. He expanded the Islamic empire to new lands and organized the government with wisdom and fairness. His most important contribution was the compilation of the Quran into one standard version, which preserved the holy book exactly as it was revealed. Uthman (r.a) spent his wealth for the sake of Allah, helping the poor and supporting the Muslim army. Despite facing rebellion and false accusations, he remained patient, gentle, and devoted to peace. His martyrdom while reading the Qur'an showed his deep love for Allah. Uthman (r.a) left behind a legacy of faith, sacrifice, and service, and is honored as one of the greatest caliphs in Islamic history. He is also known by another beautiful title: "Al-Ghani" (الغني), which means "The Generous" or "The Wealthy Giver." People of that time gave him this title because he was found helping Islam & people with his wealth many times.

## **Caliphate of Ali ibn Abi Talib (656–661 AD).**

Full Name: Ali ibn Abi Talib ibn Abd al-Muttalib. He was born in 600 AD in Makkah. His father was Abu Talib and his mother was Fatimah bint Asad. He was the cousin and son-in-law of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and the first young male of 10 years to accept Islam.

Ali was known for his bravery, wisdom, and justice. He ruled during a time of internal conflicts, including the Battle of Jamal and the Battle of Siffin. Despite challenges, he stood for truth and equality.

He tried to unite Muslims and remove corruption. His leadership was based on fairness and loyalty to Islamic principles.

### **His Caliphate (khilaafat):**

Ali ibn Abi Talib (r.a) became the fourth Caliph of Islam in 656 AD and last till 661 AD, after the martyrdom of Uthman ibn Affan (r.a). His rule lasted for about five years and came during one of the most difficult and troubled times in Islamic history. The Muslim community was deeply divided after Uthman's death, and there was unrest and disagreement about how to deal with those responsible for the killing of Uthman (r.a). Despite these challenges, Ali (r.a) accepted leadership with great humility and sincerity, hoping to restore justice and unity among Muslims.

As caliph, Ali (r.a) ruled from Kufa in Iraq, which became the new capital of the Islamic state. He was known for his fairness, courage, and knowledge. He replaced



corrupt governors and focused on restoring equality and honesty in government. He was deeply concerned about the welfare of the people, especially the poor and orphans, and he taught that a ruler must be just and serve everyone, regardless of their status or wealth.

However, his caliphate was marked by internal conflicts and civil wars among Muslims. The first major conflict was the Battle of Jamal (Battle of the Camel), which was fought between Ali's forces and those led by Aisha (r.a), Talha (r.a), and Zubair (r.a), due to misunderstandings about how to handle the killers of Uthman (r.a). Later, another battle known as the Battle of Siffin took place between Ali (r.a) and Muawiya (r.a), the governor of Syria. Although both sides were sincere Muslims, the political tension led to bloodshed and great pain in the Ummah.

After these battles, a group called the Khawarij (Kharijites) rebelled against Ali (r.a) because they disagreed with his decision to negotiate peace. Even then, Ali (r.a) tried to bring justice and reconciliation. He taught his followers that true faith requires patience, forgiveness, and standing for truth even in hard times.

In 661 AD, while praying in the mosque of Kufa, he was fatally struck with a poisoned sword by a Kharijite named Abdur-Rahman ibn Muljam. He passed away two days later at the age of 63, the same age as Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. His death was a great loss to Islam, as he was one of the most knowledgeable and brave companions of the Prophet ﷺ.

He is remembered for his wisdom, justice, and spiritual insight. His sermons and letters, many preserved in Islamic literature, continue to teach lessons on leadership, equality, and moral strength. His rule showed that true leadership is not about power or wealth, but about truth, justice, and serving Allah.

### Death:

In 661 AD, while praying in Kufa mosque, he was struck by Ibn Muljam, a member of the Kharijite sect. He died from his wounds and was buried in Najaf, Iraq.

### Hadith about Ali (r.a):

Hadith: 'Whoever I am his master, Ali is his master.' (Tirmidhi, book 49, hadith 3713). There are many more hadith regarding him.

### Legacy:

He left behind a legacy of wisdom, justice, and courage. He was known for his deep knowledge of the Quran, his strong faith, and his fearless defense of Islam from a young age. As the fourth caliph, he ruled with honesty and fairness, even during times of great conflict and division. Ali (r.a) taught people that true leadership means serving others and standing for truth, even when it is difficult. His speeches, letters, and sayings are still studied for their wisdom and spiritual guidance. He is remembered as the “Gate of Knowledge” and a symbol of bravery, piety, and justice.

**Titles Given to Ali (r.a):** Ali ibn Abi Talib (r.a) was given several noble titles that reflected his character and virtues:

**Asadullah** (دلّا دسأ) – “*The Lion of Allah*”, this title was given to him because of his **bravery in battles** and his fearless defense of Islam. He fought with great courage in many battles such as **Badr**, **Uhud**, and **Khaybar**, where the Prophet ﷺ said: “Tomorrow I will give the flag to a man who loves Allah and His

Messenger, and Allah and His Messenger love him.” The next day, the Prophet gave the flag to **Ali (r.a)**, and he led the Muslims to victory.

**Karrar** – “*The One Who Attacks Again and Again*”, this title also reflects his bravery and strength in battle. He never ran away from the battlefield.

**Bab al-‘Ilm (باب العلم)** – “*The Gate of Knowledge*”, the Prophet ﷺ said: “I am the city of knowledge and Ali is its gate.” This means Ali was among the **most knowledgeable** companions, deeply understanding the Qur’an and Islamic teachings. Tirmizi hadith 3723 book no. 49.

**Imam al-Muttaqeen** – “*Leader of the Pious*”, because of his humility, justice, and devotion to Allah, he became an example for all believers.

## **Caliphate of Imam Hasan ibn Ali (661 AD).**

**Full Name:** Hasan ibn Ali ibn Abi Talib. He was born in 625 AD in Madinah. He was the eldest grandson of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ through his daughter Fatimah and son-in-law Ali ibn Abi Talib. He grew up under the Prophet’s care and was loved dearly by him.

After the martyrdom of his father Ali (r.a), Imam Hasan (r.a) became the fifth caliph. His leadership lasted about six months. Faced with divisions among Muslims and pressure from Muawiya ibn Abi Sufyan, Imam Hasan chose peace over war. He made a peace treaty to protect the unity of the Muslim Ummah.

### **His Caliphate (Khilaafat):**

After the martyrdom of his father, Ali ibn Abi Talib (r.a), in 661 AD, Imam Hasan ibn Ali (r.a), the beloved grandson of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, became the fifth Caliph of Islam. He was chosen by the people of Kufa (in Iraq) and accepted as leader by many Muslims. Imam Hasan (r.a) was known for his gentle nature, deep knowledge, and strong faith, but his time as caliph was very short — lasting about six to seven months.

At that time, the Muslim community was suffering from great division. Many people supported Imam Hasan (r.a) as the rightful caliph, while others supported Muawiya ibn Abi Sufyan (r.a), the governor of Syria, who had a strong army and large following. Both sides prepared for war, and Muslims were on the verge of another major conflict. However, Imam Hasan (r.a), remembering the suffering caused by previous civil wars, did not want more bloodshed among believers.

With great wisdom and sincerity, Imam Hasan (r.a) chose to make peace with Muawiya (r.a) instead of fighting. He signed a peace treaty that gave the caliphate to Muawiya (r.a) under certain conditions — that he would rule according to the Qur’an and Sunnah and that no one would be chosen as successor after him without consultation. This wise and selfless act brought unity to the Muslim Ummah and ended years of civil war. Because of this, Imam Hasan (r.a) is often called the “Prince of Peace” in Islamic history.

After stepping down, Imam Hasan (r.a) moved to Madinah, where he lived a quiet and simple life devoted to worship, teaching, and serving people. He was known for his generosity, forgiving nature, and patience. Sadly, in 670 AD (50 hijri), he was poisoned by a political plot — most reports say it was through someone close to him who had been deceived by the enemies of Islam. He was buried in Jannat al-Baqi cemetery in Madinah beside his mother, Fatimah (r.a).

## Death:

Imam Hasan lived quietly in Madinah after giving up the caliphate. In 670 AD, he was poisoned and died at age 45. He was buried in Jannat al-Baqi cemetery.

## Hadith about Imam Hasan (r.a):

1. Narrated Sahl bin Saad: I saw the Prophet ﷺ sitting on the pulpit while al-Ḥasan bin Alī was sitting beside him. The Prophet ﷺ was addressing the people, and at one time he looked towards them and at another time he looked towards al-Ḥasan, and said:

“This son of mine is a chief (sayyid), and perhaps Allah will bring reconciliation through him between two great groups of the Muslims.” Bukhari Hadith: 2704 & 3746.

The Prophet Muḥammad ﷺ foretold in an authentic ḥadīth (Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī 2704 & 3746) that his grandson al-Ḥasan ibn Alī (r.a) would be a great leader and that Allah would use him to bring reconciliation between two large groups of Muslims. This prophecy came true after the martyrdom of his father, Imām Alī (r.a), in 40 Hijri / 661 AD. Al-Ḥasan (r.a) became caliph in Kūfa (Iraq), while Mu‘āwiyah ibn Abī Sufyān (r.a), the governor of Syria, had strong support and refused to give allegiance. To avoid further bloodshed and division within the Muslim community, al-Ḥasan (r.a) chose to abdicate the caliphate in favor of Mu‘āwiyah (r.a). This act of selflessness united the Muslims under one ruler and ended the conflict that could have turned into a destructive civil war. The year of this event, 41 Hijri / 661–662 AD, is remembered in Islamic history as Ām al-Jamā‘ah (The Year of Unity). Historians such as Ibn Kathīr, al-Ṭabarī, and Ibn Ḥajar al-‘Asqalānī all mention this as the exact fulfillment of the Prophet’s prophecy, highlighting the wisdom and foresight of al-Ḥasan (r.a) in prioritizing unity and peace over personal power.

2. The Prophet ﷺ said: 'Hasan and Husain are the leaders of the youth in Paradise.' (Tirmidhi, book 49, Hadith 3768).

## Legacy:

Imam Hasan ibn Ali (r.a) is remembered for his wisdom, patience, and love for peace. As the beloved grandson of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, he carried the Prophet’s noble character, kindness, and humility. When he became caliph after his father Ali (r.a), he chose peace over conflict by making a treaty with Muawiyah (r.a), ending the civil war among Muslims. This wise decision protected the Ummah from more bloodshed and showed his deep concern for unity and brotherhood. Imam Hasan (r.a) taught that real strength lies in forgiveness and self-control. His legacy is one of peace, compassion, and devotion to Allah, and he is honored as a leader who sacrificed power for the sake of Muslim unity.

Imam Hasan (r.a) also left behind a legacy of peace, forgiveness, and unity. His decision to give up power for the sake of saving Muslim lives showed true courage and love for the Ummah. His actions fulfilled the Prophet’s ﷺ prophecy that his grandson would bring peace between two groups of Muslims. Imam Hasan (r.a) is remembered not as a ruler who sought power, but as a leader who sacrificed power to protect the faith and unity of Islam.

## **The Umayyad caliphate (Umayya) (الْخِلَافَةُ الْأُمَوِيَّةُ) (661-750 AD).**

The Umayyad Caliphs (Umayyaa Khilaafat) (661–750 AD) were the first great Muslim dynasty after the Rightly Guided Caliphs (caliphate Raashida). They ruled from Damascus, Syria and expanded the Islamic empire to the largest it had ever been, stretching from Spain in the west to India in the east (Indian subcontinent) (Sindh). The Umayyads made Arabic the official language and developed strong administration and trade. However, they were often criticized for living luxuriously and favoring their own family. In 750 AD, the Abbasids defeated them, ending their rule though one branch continued ruling in Spain as Córdoba Caliphate (Qurṭubah قرطبة khilaafat) from 756 to 929 AD as Emirates (Amir) & in 929 they became caliph & declared their caliphate in Spain & their caliphate remained till 1031 AD in Spain (929-1031 AD).

The Umayyad Caliphate started in 661 AD when Muāwiya ibn Abī Sufyān became caliph after the peace treaty with Ḥasan ibn Ali (r.a). They ruled from Damascus, Syria, and their dynasty lasted until 750 AD.

They expanded the Islamic empire to three continents; made Arabic the official language, introduced a common currency, built beautiful mosques Qubbat al-Sakhra (قبة الصخرة) (the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem), al-Masjidu al-Umawiyyū bi-Dimashq (الْمَسْجِدُ الْأُمَوِيُّ بِدِمَشْقَ) (the Great Mosque of Damascus) and created an organized system of government. They were strong builders and expanders of the empire.

But they were often seen as turning the caliphate into a kingdom, favoring their family over others, living in luxury and sometimes being unjust to non-Arab Muslims. These issues caused rebellions and dislike among many groups, which led to their downfall. Their love for power and wealth weakened their rule.

### **List of caliphs of the Umayyad Caliphate:**

1. Mu‘āwiya I (مُعَاوِيَةُ الْأَوَّلُ) (661–680 AD): He was founder of the Umayyad dynasty, made Damascus the capital, and started the practice of passing rule to family (hereditary caliphate).
2. Yazid I (يَزِيدُ الْأَوَّلُ) (680–683 AD): He was son of Mu‘āwiya & he is remembered for the tragic event of Karbala where Imam Husain (r.a) (grandson of Prophet ﷺ) was martyred.
3. Muāwiya II (مُعَاوِيَةُ الثَّانِي) (683–684 AD): He ruled only a short time, very young and weak, died early.
4. Marwān I (مَرْوَانُ الْأَوَّلُ) (684–685 AD): He was a senior leader who saved the dynasty during civil war.
5. Abdul Malik (عَبْدُ الْمَلِكِ) (685–705 AD): He was a strong ruler; made Arabic the official language, built Qubbat al-Sakhra (قبة الصخرة) (the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem) and issued a single Islamic coin system.
6. Al-Walīd I (الْوَلِيدُ الْأَوَّلُ) (705–715 AD): He expanded the empire greatly (into Spain, Central Asia, and India). In his period al-Masjidu al-Umawiyyū bi-Dimashq (الْمَسْجِدُ الْأُمَوِيُّ بِدِمَشْقَ) (the Great Mosque of Damascus) was built.
7. Sulaymān (سُلَيْمَانُ) (715–717 AD): He had a short rule, tried to strengthen family control, began the siege of Constantinople (Istanbul) (Byzantine capital).

8. Umar II (عُمَرُ الثَّانِي) (717–720 AD): Umar ibn Abd al-Aziz ibn Marwan (عُمَرُ بْنُ عَبْدِ الْعَزِيزِ بْنِ مَرْوَانَ), He was known as a just and pious caliph, sometimes called the fifth rightly guided caliph. Treated non-Arabs more fairly and encouraged Islamic values. He is still remembered & respected for his good qualities.

9. Yazid II (يَزِيدُ الثَّانِي) (720–724 AD): He was known for religious policies, but his rule was troubled by unrest.

10. Hishām (هَشَامٌ) (724–743 AD): He had a long and stable rule, patron of learning, but faced revolts near the end.

11. Al-Walīd II (الْوَلِيدُ الثَّانِي) (743–744 AD): He was seen as corrupt and luxurious, lost respect.

12. Yazid III (يَزِيدُ الثَّلَاثُ) (744 AD): He had a very short rule, wanted reforms but died soon.

13. Ibrahim (إِبْرَاهِيمُ) (744 AD): He ruled only for a few months.

14. Marwān II (يَزِيدُ الثَّلَاثُ) (744–750 AD): He was the last Umayyad caliph, a strong soldier but defeated by the Abbasids in 750 AD.

### **The Córdoba Caliphate (Qurṭubah قرطبة khilaafat) a branch of Umayya khilaafat:**

After the defeat of Umayyad caliphate (Umayya) (الْخِلَافَةُ الْأُمَوِيَّةُ) against Abbasid caliphate (Abbasi Khilaafat) in 750 AD, in areas all around Iraq (Damascus). But one surviving Umayyad prince, Abdul-Raḥmān I, escaped to Spain (al-Andalus) in 756 AD. They made Córdoba (Spain) independent from the Abbasid Caliphate and the Fatimid Caliphate in North Africa, and set up an independent Umayyad Emirate in Córdoba (not a caliphate yet) from 756 to 929 AD in Spain (Córdoba).

Later descendants of Ummaya caliphate in 929 AD, Abdul-Raḥmān III declared himself Caliph in Córdoba, making the Córdoba Caliphate (Qurṭubah قرطبة khilaafat); starting from 929 to 1031AD.

Today, Córdoba is a city in southern Spain, in the region of Andalusia. Córdoba was the capital city of the Córdoba Caliphate. Córdoba (the capital city) became one of the richest and most advanced cities in the world, known for: Its universities and libraries, beautiful architecture (like the Great Mosque of Córdoba) & advances in science, philosophy, and medicine. The Córdoba Caliphate lasted until 1031 AD, when it split into many smaller kingdoms called Taifas. This marked the end of Cordoba caliphate (a branch of descendants of Ummaya Khilaafat).

### **The Abbasid Caliphate (750-1258 AD).**

#### **Introduction:**

The Abbasid Caliphate (750-1258 AD) was the third major caliphate in Islamic history after Umayyads (الْخِلَافَةُ الْأُمَوِيَّةُ) caliphate in region around Iraq. The Abbasid caliphate was founded in 750 AD by Abdul Abbās al-Saffāḥ after overthrowing the Umayyad caliphate. The name Abbasi got from Abbās ibn Abd al-Muṭṭalib, uncle of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. Its capital was first Kufa, then Baghdad (762 AD), which became a center of culture and science. The Abbasid caliphate lasted in Baghdad until 1258 AD, when the Mongols sacked the city, then continued in Cairo (1261–1517 AD) under the Mamluk sultanate (not caliphate).



The Abbasids were one of the greatest empires in Islamic and world history, it is known as the Golden Age of Islam due to the progress in science, philosophy, trade, and culture, but due to political struggles & wars, decline took place.

### **Initial Period (750–850 AD) The Rise:**

The Abbasids came to power by claiming descent from the Prophet's family (Ahle Bait) and by gaining support from non-Arab Muslims (mawālī), Persians, and Shia groups. They moved the capital from Damascus to Baghdad, near the Persian influence zone, making it a global center. Caliph al-Mansūr (754–775 AD) built Baghdad as the City of Peace. Caliph Hārūn al-Rashīd (786–809 AD) brought the empire to luxury and cultural brilliance; the fairy tales called One Thousand and One Nights, also called Alf Laylah wa-Layla (The Arabian Nights) was compiled in Arabic in this period. Caliph al-Ma'mūn (813–833 AD) established the Bayt al-Ḥikmah (House of Wisdom) for translations and science. This era was of unity, prosperity, and military strength.

### **Middle Period (850–1050 AD) – Golden Age and Challenges:**

Abbasids faced political fragmentation: provinces like North Africa, Spain, and Egypt became semi-independent.

The Golden Age was a period of science, research, medical science, study of geometry, history, maths, astronomy, books & text writing, language learning, translation of books & text into Arabic & other languages; experiments & manufacturing of machines, clocks making, distillation (perfumes), chemistry, learning & study on Quran, hadiths, Islam, philosophy etc. Translations of Greek works of Aristotle, Galen, and Ptolemy preserved world knowledge. Main was language learning which brought the resolution in science, exchange of ideas, learning from old text, researching on the old text, ideas, to filter it with mistakes & replace it with new ideas, experiments & facts.

Lots of Islamic scholars worked, learned & researched, wrote books, translated books etc in this golden period. Thus Baghdad became the largest city in the world (over 1 million population) because lot of people around came to study in Baghdad & lot of schools, learning institutes & universities were built for people to come & study; people from all religion & region came to study. Further in this book about Islamic scholars, chapters are written, go on reading & learn.

But political weakness grew: local dynasties like the Samanids, Buyids, Fatimids reduced Abbasid control. Caliphs lost power to viziers (chief ministers) and military commanders brought their period of decline & fall.

### **Later Period (1050–1258 AD) – Decline and Fall:**

Abbasids became ceremonial rulers, while Seljuk Turks and other dynasties ruled in practice. Caliph al-Nāṣir (1180–1225 AD) tried to restore some authority. Cultural brilliance continued, but the empire was politically fractured. In 1258 AD, the Mongols (buddhist) under Hülegü Khan invaded Baghdad. The city was destroyed, thousands of people were killed and the last Abbasid caliph in Baghdad, al-Musta'ṣim, was executed.

### **Cairo Period (1261–1517 AD) – Symbolic Survival:**

After 1258 AD, the Abbasids were re-established in Cairo by the Mamluk Sultanate. They had no real political power, serving as spiritual and religious figureheads. In

1517 AD, the Ottoman (Usmaniya) Turks conquered Egypt and transferred the caliphate to Istanbul.

### **Contributions to Science, Knowledge, and World Civilization in Abbasid caliphate:**

#### **Science and Mathematics:**

Algebra, geometry, trigonometry, and astronomy advanced by al-Khwārizmī, al-Bīrūnī, al-Battānī. Al-Khwarizmi was called Algorithmi in Latin, later the subject was called as Algorithm because of his contribution in this subject.

#### **Medicine:**

Ibn Sīnā's book Al-kanoon fi-tibb (Canon) and al-Rāzī's work became medical text books in Europe. Hospitals (bīmāristāns) were established in Baghdad and Damascus.

#### **Philosophy and Theology:**

Muʿtazilite theology encouraged reason and rationalism; later thinkers like al-Ghazālī criticized Greek philosophy but integrated it into Islamic thought. Averroes (Ibn Rushd, ibn-Sina, Al-Farabi etc) influenced Europe's Scholastic philosophy.

#### **Literature and Arts:**

Arabic poetry, calligraphy, and architecture flourished. Baghdad and Samarra became centers of art, carpets, ceramics, and manuscripts. Storytelling: Alf Layla wa-Layla (One Thousand and One Nights) reflects Abbasid cultural imagination.

#### **Trade and Economy:**

Abbasids controlled the Silk Road and Indian Ocean trade. Baghdad became a hub linking China, India, Africa, and Europe. They developed coins system (dinars, dirhams) standardized trade.

#### **Political Status, Wars, and Power:**

In early period Abbasids caliphate was strong. Middle period of Abbasids caliphate became decentralized, provinces gained autonomy (ruling) resulting in war against Byzantines & civil wars (al-Amīn vs. al-Ma'mūn).

#### **Teachings, Beliefs, and Thought:**

They promoted Islam as a universal religion beyond Arab ethnicity. Supported translation movement & showed belief in universal knowledge. Abbasid courts hosted scholars of all faiths: Muslims, Christians, Jews, Zoroastrians.

#### **Weaknesses and Decline reasons:**

The following reasons were the main reason for their decline, over-reliance on foreign soldiers (Turks, Persians), Over-dependence on non-Arab mercenaries, political fragmentation and corruption. Luxury and court intrigues weakened rulers, civil wars, religious conflicts between rationalists and traditionalists, harsh punishments in political rivalries. Lastly the Mongol invasion ended the Abbasid golden center (Baghdad) in 1258 AD.

## **Fatimid Caliphate (Fatimi Khilaafat) (909–1171 AD).**

The Fatimids (Fatimi Khilaafat) were Ismaili Shia dynasty (Ismaili Shias are who follows Aga Khan) that started in North Africa in 909 AD. They claimed descent from Fatimah (r.a), the daughter of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, hence the name "Fatimid." Their first capital was in Mahdia (Tunisia) and later they moved to Cairo (al-Qahira) in 969 AD, which they founded. The Fatimids were rivals of the Sunni Abbasid Caliphate in Baghdad and wanted to spread their sect of Islam. The Fatimids (Fatimi Khilaafat) ruled Egypt, North Africa, parts of Syria, Yemen, and even controlled Mecca and Medina for some time. They were strong in trade and had a powerful navy, even reaching Sicily. They are remembered for building the al-Azhar Mosque and University, which became a great center of Islamic learning. Over time, their empire became weak due to internal conflicts and Crusader pressure. Finally, in 1171 AD, Ṣalāḥ al-Dīn (Salahuddin Ayyubi) ended the Fatimid Caliphate in Egypt and restored Sunni Abbasid allegiance.

## **Seljuk Sultanate (سُلْطَنَةُ السَّلَاجِقَةِ) (1037–1194 AD).**

The Seljuks (سُلْطَنَةُ السَّلَاجِقَةِ) (Sultanat-e-Asslaajiq) were a Hanafi-Sunni Turkish dynasty that began in Central Asia and later moved into Persia and the Middle East. They took power around 1037 AD and soon controlled a vast empire, including Persia, Iraq, Syria, and Anatolia (Turkey). They were defenders of Sunni Islam and supported the Abbasid caliphs in Baghdad, ruling in their name. Their most famous sultans were Alp Arslan and Malik Shah.

The Seljuks are remembered for defeating the Byzantine Empire (eastern Roman Empire) at the Battle of Manzikert (1071), as the Seljuks won; this victory opened the way for Muslims (especially the Turks) to enter and settle in Anatolia (modern-day Turkey).

They also encouraged Islamic scholarship and architecture, building madrasas (schools) and mosques. Over time, the empire broke into smaller states due to internal struggles and Crusader invasions. By 1194 AD, the main Seljuk power declined, but their legacy continued through later Turkish and Persian dynasties.

## **Almoravid Dynasty (دَوْلَةُ الْأَمْرَاطِينَ) (1040–1147 AD).**

The Almoravid Dynasty (Daulatul Muraabiteen) (دَوْلَةُ الْأَمْرَاطِينَ) was a Berber Muslim dynasty that was raised in North Africa (Mauritania and Morocco) around 1040 AD. They were known for their strict religious views and efforts to spread Islam among desert tribes. They moved into Morocco and Spain (al-Andalus), becoming defenders of Islam in the region. It was not a caliphate but a dynasty.

In Spain, the Almoravids helped stop Christian advances when Muslim states were weak. They built Marrakesh as their capital and made it a center of trade and culture. However, they became unpopular for their strictness and were eventually replaced by the Almohads. Still, they played an important role in keeping Muslim Spain alive during a time of danger from Christian kingdoms. They were Maliki-Sunni Muslim, followed strict Maliki fiqh (Islamic law). Its founder was a Berber scholar-warrior Abdullah ibn Yāsīn and later led by Yūsuf ibn Tāshfīn.

They began as a religious reform movement among the Berber tribes of North Africa. It became a strong empire controlling trade routes of gold and salt across the Sahara. Famous for crossing into Spain (al-Andalus) to help Muslims fight the

Christian kingdoms of the north. In the battle of Zallaqa (1086 AD): Yūsuf ibn Tāshfīn defeated the Christian King Alfonso VI of Castile. But they were later replaced by another Berber dynasty, the Almohads, in 1147 AD but they could not form a caliphate (Khilaafat).

### **Almohad Dynasty (الْمُوَحِّدُونَ) (al-Muwaḥḥidūn) (1121–1269 AD).**

The Almohads followed after the Almoravids. They were also Berbers from North Africa but had even stricter religious beliefs. They rose in 1121 AD under their leader Ibn Tumart, who declared himself the Mahdi. They took over Morocco and then expanded into Spain and North Africa. They were neither Shia nor Maliki in fact they were against both; they were Al-Muwahhidun (strong in tawhid believe, oneness of Allah). It was not caliphate, it was a dynasty.

The Almohads ruled from Marrakesh and controlled a huge empire, including much of Muslim Spain. They encouraged learning and built strong fortresses and mosques. But they faced strong opposition from Christian kingdoms in Spain. Their defeat at the battle of Las Navas de Tolosa (1212 AD) was a major blow, and gradually their empire weakened. By the late 1200s, the Almohads were replaced by smaller dynasties and only Granada Emirates remained in Spain.

### **Ayyubid Sultanate (السَّلْطَنَةُ الْأَيُّوبِيَّةُ) (Saltanat-e-Ayyūbiyyah) (1171–1250 AD).**

The Ayyubid Sultanate (السَّلْطَنَةُ الْأَيُّوبِيَّةُ) (Saltanat-e-Ayyūbiyyah) was founded by Ṣalāḥ al-Dīn Yūsuf ibn Ayyūb (Salahuddin Ayyubi) in 1171 AD after he ended the Fatimid Caliphate in Egypt. He was of Kurdish origin and became famous for his victory over the Crusaders (Christian warriors of Europe). His greatest achievement was the Battle of Ḥaṭṭīn (1187), where he defeated the Crusaders and recaptured Jerusalem for the Muslims. They were Kurdish Sunni Muslims, promoted all 4 Sunni groups Hanafi, shafi, Maliki & Hambali but Salahuddin himself & most of his associates were Shafi. It was not caliphate but was sultanate.

The Ayyubids ruled Egypt, Syria, Yemen, and parts of Iraq. They were known for their fairness, military skill, and support for Islamic learning. Salahuddin and his successors built schools, mosques, and hospitals. After Salahuddin's death, the Sultanate continued but eventually became weaker. In 1250 AD, the Mamluks, who were their former soldiers, took power in Egypt, ending the Ayyubid rule there. The Mamluks supported Abbasid caliphate when they lost to Mongol in 1250 AD.

### **The Mongols.**

In 1258 AD, the Mongols under Hulagu Khan invaded Baghdad, the capital of the Abbasid Caliphate. They destroyed the city, burned libraries, killed thousands of people, and ended the rule of the Abbasid caliphs in Baghdad. This attack was one of the most shocking events in Islamic history, as Baghdad was the center of knowledge, culture, and power at that time. After the invasion, Baghdad never returned to its old glory.

The Mongols ruled over Baghdad and much of the region until 1260 AD, when they were stopped at the Battle of Ain Jalut (معركة عين جالوت) (Ma'rakat 'Ayn Jālūt) in Palestine on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 1260 AD by the Mamluks of Egypt. This was the first big defeat of the Mongols, and it saved the rest of the Muslim world from total destruction. Later, the Abbasid family re-established a symbolic caliphate in Cairo, under the protection of the Mamluks, but the true political power remained with the Mamluks.

The Mongols attacked and captured **Baghdad in 1258 AD** under the command of **Hulagu Khan**, the grandson of Genghis Khan. This event marked the tragic end of the **Abbasid Caliphate** in Baghdad, which had been the heart of the Islamic world for over five centuries. The Mongols destroyed the city, killed a

large portion of its population, and executed the last Abbasid Caliph, **al-Musta‘sim Billah**. After this conquest, the Mongols did not immediately leave; instead, they established their rule over large parts of the Islamic world, particularly in **Persia (Iran)** and **Iraq**.

Hulagu Khan founded the **Ilkhanate dynasty** in 1256 AD, which ruled over Persia, Iraq, and parts of Anatolia. The Ilkhanate became a major Mongol Muslim dynasty that governed these Islamic regions for nearly **eighty years**, until around **1335 AD**, when the dynasty finally collapsed due to internal conflicts and lack of a strong successor. During this period, several Mongol rulers adopted Islam, with **Ghazan Khan (1295–1304 AD)** being the most famous for making **Islam the official religion** of the Ilkhanate. As a result, the Mongols gradually integrated into Islamic civilization and became patrons of Islamic culture, art, and learning.

In **Central Asia**, Mongol control lasted even longer under the **Chagatai Khanate**, which ruled from around **1225 to 1370 AD**. Over time, the rulers of this region also embraced Islam, blending Mongol and Islamic traditions. However, in **Syria** and **Egypt**, the Mongols failed to establish lasting control. They were defeated in **1260 AD** by the **Mamluks of Egypt** at the famous **Battle of Ayn Jalut**, which stopped Mongol expansion into the western Islamic world.

In summary, the Mongols remained in Islamic countries for about **80 years after the fall of Baghdad**, ruling primarily through the Ilkhanate in Iran and Iraq until around **1335 AD**. In broader regions such as Central Asia, Mongol rule continued for nearly **a century and a half**. Although their initial invasion brought massive destruction, the later Mongol rulers contributed significantly to the spread of Islam and the revival of learning and culture in the Islamic world.

### Summary Table:

| Region          | Mongol Dynasty   | Period of Rule | Duration  | Notes                              |
|-----------------|------------------|----------------|-----------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Iraq & Iran  | Ilkhanate        | 1256–1335 CE   | 80 years  | Mongol rulers later became Muslims |
| 2. Central Asia | Chagatai Khanate | 1225–1370 CE   | 145 years | Gradual Islamization               |
| 3. Syria        | Brief invasion   | 1260 CE        | <1 year   | Defeated by Mamluks                |

## The Mamluk Sultanate (سلطنة المماليك) (Salṭanat al-Mamālīk) (1250-1517 AD).

The Mamluks (Mumalik) (1250-1517 AD) were originally slave soldiers from Central Asia and the Caucasus who were trained as warriors in the Muslim world. Over time, they became very powerful in Egypt and Syria. In 1250 AD, they took control and started the Mamluk Sultanate. They are famous for saving the Muslim world when they defeated the Mongols at Ain Jalut in 1260 AD under Sulṭān Quṭuz (سُلْطَانُ قُطُزْ) and later ruled strongly under Sulṭān Baybars (سُلْطَانُ بَيْبَارْسْ). It was not caliphate (khilafaat) but was Sultanate.

The Mamluk period is usually divided into two parts: the Baḥrī Mamluks (1250-1382 AD) (الْمَمَالِيكُ الْبَحْرِيُّونَ), who were mostly of Turkish origin, and the Burjī or Circassian Mamluks (1382-1517 AD) (الْمَمَالِيكُ الْبُرْجِيُّونَ), who were mainly from the Caucasus (border of Asia & Europe). They ruled for almost 267 years. During their time, Cairo (in Egypt) became a center of Islamic learning, architecture, and trade. They built great mosques, maktab and even protected the holy cities of Makkah and Madinah.

But the Mamluks also had weaknesses; they often fought among themselves, killed each other to become sultan and imposed heavy taxes on ordinary people. This weakened their rule over time. In 1517 AD, they were finally defeated by the Ottoman Sultan (دَوْلَةُ عُثْمَانِيَّةٍ) under Salīm al-Awwal (سُلْطَانُ سَلِيمُ الْأَوَّلِ) the Ottoman Sultan and Egypt became part of the Ottoman Empire.



They had brave soldiers & were defenders of Islam, built schools, mosques, hospitals, supported scholars. But too much fighting for power, short reigns of many sultans, heavy taxes, cruelty at times led to declined them

The Mamluks were their former soldiers of Ayyubi Sultanate. The Mamluk Sultanate started in 1250 AD in Egypt when the slave soldiers (called Mamluks) took power after the end of the Ayyubid dynasty. (The Ayyubis were Kurdish-origin, Sunni Muslim dynasty that ruled in Egypt, Syria, and the Yemen from 1171 to 1341, founded by Sulṭān Ṣalāḥ al-Dīn ibn Ayyub (سُلْطَانُ صَلَاحُ الدِّين) (Salahuddin) (founder of Ayyubids before Mamluks). Mamluks gain in Baghdad at 1250 AD though they were in power in Yemen, Syria & Egypt since 1171 AD.

### **List of Mamluk rulers from 1250-1517 AD in Baghdad:**

Baḥrī Mamluks was from 1250-1382 AD (الْمَمَالِيكُ الْبَحْرِيُّونَ)

Burjī (Circassian) Mamluks (1382-1517 AD) (الْمَمَالِيكُ الْبُرْجِيُّونَ)

#### **Bahrī Mamluks:**

1. Sultana Shajar al-Durr (1250 AD) (شَجَرُ الدَّر), first woman ruler, short reign
2. Sultan Aybak (سُلْطَانُ أَيُّبَك) (1250-1257 AD) first male ruler of Mamluks.
3. Sultan al-Mansur Ali (سُلْطَانُ الْمَنْصُورُ عَلِي) (1257-1259 AD) short & weak rule.
4. Sultan Qutuz (سُلْطَانُ قُطُز) (1259-1260 AD) – defeated Mongols at Ain Jalut.
5. Sultan Baybars (سُلْطَانُ بَيْبَارِس) (1260-1277 AD) He was a strong ruler, expanded empire.
6. Sultan Barakah (سُلْطَانُ بَرَكَة) (1277-1279 AD) short & weak rule.
7. Sultan Qalāwūn (سُلْطَانُ قَلَاوُون) (1279-1290 AD) Strong new dynasty.
8. Sultan al-Ashraf Khalīl (سُلْطَانُ الْأَشْرَفُ خَلِيل) (1290-1293) took Acre city from enemies in 1291 AD. He was murdered by his emirs, who were alarmed by his ambition.
9. Sultan al-Nāṣir Muḥammad (سُلْطَانُ النَّاصِرِ مُحَمَّد) (1293-1341 AD), long reign, cultural growth took place.
10. 3 sons of al-Nasir Muhammad ruled for few months (each) (1341-1342 AD)
11. Sultan al-Kamil Sha‘ban (1345–1346 AD): Very short reign.
12. Sultan al-Muzaffar Hajji (1346–1347AD): Deposed after only a year.
13. Sultan al-Nasir Hasan (1347–1351 AD): (first time) tried to restore order, but was removed.
14. Sultan al-Salih Salih (1351–1354 AD): Weak ruler.
15. Sultan al-Nasir Hasan 1354–1361 (second time again came to rule): Restored to throne, stronger rule, but assassinated.
16. Sultan al-Mansur Muhammad (1361–1363 AD): Child ruler, easily controlled by emirs.
17. Sultan al-Ashraf Sha‘ban (1363–1377 AD): Long reign, but faced internal corruption.
18. Sultan al-Mansur Ali (1377–1381 AD): Son of Sha‘ban, weak and young.
19. Sultan al-Salih Hajji (1381–1382 AD): Last Bahri Mamluk ruler. He was overthrown by Sultan Barquq (1382 AD), who began the Burji (Circassian) dynasty.

Burjī (الْمَمَالِيكُ الْبُرْجِيُّونَ) (Circassian) Mamluks (1382-1517):

1. Sultan Barqūq (سُلْطَانُ بَرْقُوق) (1382-1389 AD): He was founder of Circassian line.
2. Sultan Hajji II (1389–1390 AD): restored briefly, weak.
3. Sultan Barqūq (سُلْطَانُ بَرْقُوق) (1390-1399 AD): again to power
4. Sultan Faraj ibn Barqūq (سُلْطَانُ فَرَجِ بْنِ بَرْقُوق) (1399-1412 AD)

5. Sultan al-Mu'ayyad Shaykh (1412–1421 AD): restored stability.
6. Sultan al-Muzaffar Ahmad (1421 AD): short reign, a child
7. Sultan al-Ashraf Barsbāy (سُلْطَانُ الْأَشْرَفِ بَرْسَبَايَ) (1422-1438 AD): During his period trade expanded.
8. Sultan Jaqmaq (1438–1453 AD): known for administrative reforms & architecture. He had a stable reign.
9. Sultan Inal (1453–1461 AD): built many masjids, schools & did charitable work.
10. Sultan Khushqadam (1461–1467 AD): His reign had internal & external problems, but hold the throne for 6 years anyhow.
11. Sultan Yalbay (1467 AD): (short reign, less than a year)
12. Sultan Timurbugha (1467–1468 AD): ruled a few months.
13. Sultan Qāyṭbāy (سُلْطَانُ قَايْتَبَايَ) (1468-1496 AD): He was a great builder & a strong ruler.
14. Sultan Muhammad ibn Qaytbay (1496–1498 AD): weak, son of Qaytbay.
15. Sultan Qansuh Abu Sa'id (1498 AD): ruled a few months only.
16. Sultan Tuman Bay I (1501 AD) (ruled briefly, deposed)
17. Sultan Qānṣūh al-Ghawrī (سُلْطَانُ قَانَسُوهُ الْغَوْرِي) (1501-1516 AD) He was the last strong Mamluk ruler.
18. Sultan Tūmān Bay II (سُلْطَانُ ثُوْمَانٍ بَايَ الثَّانِي) (1516-1517 AD) CE, He was the last ruler & got defeated by Ottomans in 1517 AD, the Ottoman Sultan Salīm al-Awwal (سُلْطَانُ سَلِيْمٍ الْأَوَّلِ) defeated the Mamluks and ended their rule.

## The Ottoman Empire (Usmaniya) (دَوْلَةُ عُثْمَانِيَّة) (1299-1924 AD).

The Ottoman Empire (1299-1924 AD) (دَوْلَةُ عُثْمَانِيَّة) began in 1299 AD when Uthmān ibn Ertuğrul (عُثْمَانُ بْنُ أَرْطُغْرُلْ) founded a small state in Anatolia (Turkey). His followers were called Uthmāniyyūn (عُثْمَانِيُّوْنَ), from which the word “Ottoman” comes. Over time, the Ottomans grew powerful, capturing lands from the Byzantine (Roman) Empire and other Muslim rulers. Initially they were not as caliphate & in 1517 AD they defeated Mamluks & declared their caliphate & last till 1924 AD. Ottoman Empire was Hanafi-Sunni. So in 1299 to 1517 AD, they were as an Empire & 1517-1924 AD declared caliphate after defeating the Mamluks.

In 1453 AD, under Sultān Muḥammad al-Fātiḥ (سُلْطَانُ مُحَمَّدُ الْفَاتِحِ), they conquered Constantinople (Istanbul), ending the Byzantine (Roman) Empire. Istanbul became the new capital & an important center of Islam, trade, culture, and learning. The Ottomans also protected the holy cities of Makkah (مَكَّة) and Madinah (مَدِيْنَةُ) and expanded across Europe, Asia, and Africa. At its height (16th–17th century), the Ottoman Empire ruled large parts of three continents.

They had a very strong military (Janissaries – جَنِيْسَارِيُّوْنَ); they were great builders & built masjids, palaces, schools, hospitals etc. They protected Islam and the holy cities; they allowed different religions to live under their rule (Christians, Jews etc). The Ottoman Empire lasted for 625 years (1299–1924 AD), was one of the largest Muslim empires, protected Islam for centuries, but slowly declined and ended in 1924 AD.

### Reasons for their decline:

Rulers became weak and corrupt due to internal fights for the throne, imposing heavy taxes and decline in trade made the population unhappy and slowly lost power to European powers.

### Period of Rule:

Start: 1299 AD (by Uthmān ibn Ertuğrul) as Ottoman Empire (not caliphate). But later in 1517 AD declared itself as Caliphate, after they won the Mamluks in 1517 AD.

**Peak:** 1453-1683 AD (captured Istanbul; grew powerful; tried to capture of Vienna (in Austria) but did not won.

**Decline:** 1700-1800 AD onwards, lost lands & became weaker.

**End:** In 1924 AD, the Caliphate (خِلَافَةُ) was officially abolished by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk in Turkey.

### **Famous Ottoman Sultans:**

1. Uthmān ibn Ertuğrul (عُثْمَانُ بْنُ أَرْطُغُرْل) (Founder, 1299–1326).
2. Sulṭān Muḥammad al-Fātiḥ (سُلْطَانُ مُحَمَّدُ الْفَاتِيح) (Conqueror of Constantinople, 1451–1481).
3. Sulṭān Selīm al-Awwal (سُلْطَانُ سَلِيمُ الْأَوَّل) (Defeated Mamluks & took Cairo in 1517 & declared their caliphate).
4. Sulṭān Sulaymān al-Qānūnī (سُلْطَانُ سُلَيْمَانُ الْقَانُونِي) (Suleiman the Magnificent, 1520–1566, peak of caliphate).
5. Sulṭān ‘Abd al-Ḥamīd al-Thānī (سُلْطَانُ عَبْدِ الْحَمِيدِ الثَّانِي) (Last strong ruler, 1876–1909).
6. Sulṭān Muḥammad al-Sādis (سُلْطَانُ مُحَمَّدُ السَّادِس) (Mehmed VI, last Ottoman Sultan, 1918–1922).

### **After the Ottoman (Usmaniya) Empire:**

The Ottoman Empire officially ended in 1924 AD, when the last caliphate was abolished by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk (مُصْطَفَى كَمَالُ أَتَاتُورْكَ) in Turkey. After this in Turkey a secular republic called the Republic of Turkey (جُمْهُورِيَّةُ تُرْكِيَّة) was created in 1923, with Atatürk as its first president. The caliphate was removed and Turkey became a modern nation-state instead of an empire.

### **In Arab lands:**

Many Arab regions that were once under the Ottomans were taken by European powers (especially Britain and France) after World War I. For example, Iraq, Syria, Palestine, Lebanon, and Jordan were divided between them.

### **In the wider Muslim world:**

After the Ottomans, no new caliphate was made. Many Muslim leaders tried to bring back the caliphate, but none of them succeeded. Since then, Muslims have not been united under one single caliphate.

After the Ottomans, Europe (Britain & France) gained control over much of the Middle East, while Turkey became independent but secular. Thus Turkey (جُمْهُورِيَّةُ تُرْكِيَّة) replaced the Ottoman Empire. The Caliphate ended in 1924 AD and has not returned since.

### **Delhi Sultanate (السَّلْطَنَةُ الدَّهْلِيَّةُ) (Saltanat-e-Dihliyyah) (1206–1526 AD).**

The Delhi Sultanate began in 1206 AD when Qutbuddin Aibak, a former slave general of Muhammad Ghauri of Ghor (Afghanistan), became sultan. It marked the beginning of Muslim rule in northern India. The sultanate included several dynasties: Mamluks (Slave dynasty), Khiljis, Tughlaqs, Sayyids, and Lodhis. Delhi sultanate was not a caliphate (khilaafat) but was Sultanate.

The Delhi Sultans brought Islamic culture, architecture, and administration to India. They built famous monuments like the Qutb-Minar. They also introduced new systems of taxation, military organization, and promoted trade. However, they faced constant battles with Hindu kingdoms and Mongol invasions. In 1526, the Delhi Sultanate ended when Babur defeated the Lodhis and established the Mughal Empire.

### Founding (1206 AD):

After the death of Muḥammad Ghūrī (of Ghor, Afghanistan) in 1206, his generals divided his empire. Qutbuddin Aibak, his slave-general (Mamluk), declared himself Sultan of Delhi → beginning of the Delhi Sultanate. This was the first lasting Muslim kingdom in northern India.

### 5 Major Dynasties of the Delhi Sultanate:

1. Mamluk (Slave) Dynasty (1206–1290): was founded by Qutbuddin Aibak. His is famous for his monument Qutb Minar (Delhi). Iltutmish was also a Mamluk (slave dynasty), he was an important Sultan of Delhi. He made the Delhi Sultanate strong and stable. He started the Iqta system this means land was given to officers instead of paying them salary. The officers could collect taxes from that land. He organized the empire better and created a new system to pay his officers by giving them land instead of money. Razia Sultana (daughter of Iltutmish) became the first female ruler of Delhi.

2. Khilji Dynasty (1290–1320): Expansion of policies under Alauddin Khilji took place. Defeated Rajput kingdoms and sent expeditions into the Deccan. He strengthened market control and military reforms. He fought off Mongol invasions successfully.

3. Tughlaq Dynasty (1320–1414): Known for ambitious but often failed reforms. Muhammad bin Tughlaq shifted capital to Daulatabad, introduced token currency → both failed. Firuz Shah Tughlaq: built canals, cities, promoted architecture.

End period: Timur (Tamerlane) invaded Delhi (1398 AD), weakening the Sultanate.

4. Sayyid Dynasty (1414–1451 AD): Established after Timur's invasion. Weaker rulers, often controlled only Delhi and nearby regions.

5. Lodhi Dynasty (1451–1526) (Afghan dynasty): Sikandar Lodhi expanded territory, patron of arts. The last ruler was Ibrahim Lodhi, he got defeated by Babur (the Mughal founder) in the first Battle of Panipat (1526 AD); Babur started the Mughal Empire.

### Granada Emirate (1238–1492 AD).

The Emirate of Granada was the last Muslim state in Spain (al-Andalus). It was founded in 1238 AD by the Nasrid dynasty after Muslim Spain had collapsed. It was not caliphate but was Emirate (Amir). It survived for over 250 years by paying tribute to Christian kingdoms and maintaining alliances. Granada (south Spain) became a center of art, architecture and scholarship. Its most famous monument is the Alhambra Palace, a masterpiece of Islamic architecture. But over time, Christian kingdoms grew stronger. In 1492 AD, the Catholic monarchs Ferdinand and Isabella conquered Granada, marking the end of Muslim rule in Spain.

### Safavid Empire (1501–1736 AD).

The Safavid Empire (سَافَوید دَوْلَت) was a powerful dynasty in Persia (Iran), founded in 1501 AD by Shah Ismail I. They made Shia Islam the official religion of Persia (Fars-now Iran) which remains to this day. Their main capital became Isfahan, which they turned into one of the most beautiful cities in the world. The Safavids were rivals of the Sunni Ottoman Empire and often fought wars with them. They encouraged trade, arts, and Persian culture, blending Islamic and Persian traditions. The empire weakened due to internal struggles and invasions, finally collapsing in 1736 AD. But their lasting legacy was making Iran a Shia-majority region.

### Mughal Empire (1526–1857 AD).

The Mughal Empire was founded in 1526 AD by Babur, who defeated the Delhi Sultan Ibrahim Lodhi at the Battle of Panipat on 21<sup>st</sup> April 1526 AD. The Mughals were of Turko-Mongol origin, related to both Timur and Genghis Khan. They ruled most of India for over 300 years, with famous emperors like Akbar, Shah Jahan etc. Mughal Empire was not caliphate but was a big Empire.

The Mughals are remembered for their cultural achievements, strong administration, and architecture. They built great monuments like the Taj Mahal, Red Fort, and Jama Masjid. The empire reached its peak under Akbar and other emperors, but declined afterward due

to weak rulers and European colonial expansion. Finally, in 1857 after the Indian Revolt, the British abolished the Mughal dynasty, ending centuries of Muslim rule in India.

### **Founding and Origins of Mughals:**

The Mughals were descendants of both Timur (from father's side) and Genghis Khan (from mother's side). Babur (1483–1530 AD) was the first Mughal ruler, came from Fergana (city of Uzbekistan). In 1526, he defeated Ibrahim Lodhi at the first battle of Panipat & founded the empire.

### **Major Emperors:**

1. Babur (1526–1530 AD) → was founder, poet, memoirist (Baburnama-his own autobiography).
2. Humayun (1530–1540, 1555–1556) → Lost empire to Sher Shah Suri, regained it briefly.
3. Akbar (1556–1605 AD) → Expanded empire, known for religious tolerance, strong administration, and cultural integration.
4. Jahangir (1605–1627 AD) → Patron of arts and painting, maintained stability.
5. Shah Jahan (1628–1658 AD) → built the Taj Mahal, Red Fort, Jama Masjid, symbolizing Mughal glory.
6. Aurangzeb (1658–1707 AD) → Expanded Empire to its greatest extent, but his strict policies and long wars strained resources.

### **Achievements**

Architecture: Taj Mahal, Fatehpur Sikri (Buland Darwaza), Humayun's Tomb, Shalimar Gardens.

Administration: Efficient tax system (Zabt), Mansabdari (rank-based bureaucracy).

Culture: Flourishing of Persian art, poetry, miniature painting, music etc.

Economy: India under Mughals was one of the world's richest economies (17th century).

### **Decline:**

After Aurangzeb's death (1707 AD), empire fragmented. Successors were weak; regional powers (Marathas, Sikhs, Nawabs) grew stronger. European powers (Portuguese, French, British) gained influence.

In 1857 (Indian Revolt/First War of Independence), the British ended the Mughal dynasty, exiling the last emperor Bahadur Shah II (Zafar).

### **Legacy:**

The Mughals ruled India from 1526–1857, leaving behind a legacy of art, architecture, administration, and cultural blending. They built some of the most iconic monuments in the world, and their rule shaped much of Indian history.

After the decline of the Mughal Empire in the 1857 AD, India became politically fragmented. Regional powers like the Marathas, Sikhs, Nawabs of Bengal, Hyderabad, and Mysore grew stronger, while the Mughals in Delhi held only symbolic authority. At the same time, European trading companies—especially the British East India Company—took advantage of this weakness. The British defeated regional powers one by one, such as at the battle of Plassey (1757 AD) and battle of Buxar (1764), gaining political and economic control. By the early 19th century, the British had become the dominant force in India. After the Indian Revolt of 1857, the last Mughal emperor Bahadur Shah II (Zafar) was exiled and the British formally ended the Mughal dynasty. From 1858 onwards, India came under direct rule of the British Crown, beginning the period known as the British Raj (1858–1947).